

**From:** schinnell1 password  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** USAGSchinnell\_Debbie\_1048\_0108

Debbie Schinnell  
117 Northridge Drive  
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January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing you today to voice my opinion in regards to the Microsoft settlement that was reached in November. This issue has worn out its welcome, and it is time to resolve this issue permanently. The settlement is a decent and realistic alternative to another three years of litigation, and it provides the benefits that Microsoft's competitors feel they need to compete. That is why I support this settlement, and I sincerely hope there will be no further action against Microsoft at the federal level.

Among other things, the settlement gives software companies like Sun the protocols and interfaces to redesign their products to run more efficiently on the Windows operating system. Microsoft is literally giving away the sorts of codes that made them known all over the world. Moreover, hardware companies will be able to reconfigure Windows after they receive their licensing agreements, and Microsoft cannot prevent them from changing the "desktop" software or cannot take any retaliatory action, so consumers will ultimately dictate what sort of software they will want on their computers before the computer is sent. This settlement does something for everybody interested.

Microsoft is a company that has done so much to impact our society and the technology industry. Microsoft has made it easier for the average consumer to afford and use software, which in turn has made it easier to conduct business. This company should not be stifled or restricted for following the American Dream. Please support this settlement and work in the best interest of the public.

Sincerely,

Debbie Schinnell